





applicants submit that Hammons fails to teach the presently claimed invention. Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 7-9 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 by Hammons and U.S. Patent No. 5,919,177 (to Georger et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 4,324,247 (to Aziz). According to the Examiner, Hammons teaches low rewet characteristics, and Georger and Aziz disclose rewet values known in the art. Therefore, it would be obvious for one skilled in the art to combine these references to arrive at the presently claimed invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In response, applicants submit that Hammons does not teach the presently claimed invention for the reasons presented above. The Examiner's reliance on column 5, lines 17-19 to state that Hammons teaches an absorbent core with low a rewet value is misplaced. This excerpt is a description applying to the topsheet of Hammons, not to the absorbent core which is defined in Hammons as including the acquisition layer (44), storage layer (46), and the indicator layer (48). Therefore, in addition to the absence of the wicking layer, Hammons fails to teach low rewet characteristics for an absorbent core.

Providing the teachings of Georger and Aziz with Hammons fail to achieve the presently claimed invention. Georger teaches a low rewet value for an absorbent material with an apertured, film coated lofty nonwoven fabric. Applicants submit that even with this teaching, the prior art does not arrive at the presently claimed invention. Likewise, Aziz teaches a range of rewet values above and below 1.0 gram. However, again, this teaching fails to provide the missing teachings of Hammons. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, applicants submit that Hammons, in combination with Georger or Aziz, fails to teach the presently claimed invention. Applicants therefore request that the rejection be withdrawn.

